

Chief, Real Estate and Construction
Division, OL - 906 Ames

3017

0 6 AUG 1973

Chief, HEB/RECD/OL
2F42 Headquarters

Dave:

Believe we have satisfied Mrs. Agnew regarding her "organic hot spot" with one exception. Have convinced her that our boiler blowdown is the cause of the satellite "hot spot," and she has requested that, if possible, could we get the approximate volume for September 1972. This would mean checking to see if GSA has a log of boiler blowdowns and estimating the volume for each one. Could you check it out for me please and if the figures are available, send them down in note form.

Am sending you a copy of our letter to Mrs. Agnew plus backup data. Please make a file in the general area of pollution complaints or wherever we kept the [REDACTED] information.

STATINTL

Thanks,

STATINTL

[REDACTED]

0 6 AUG 1973

Mrs. Malcolm J. Agnew
1740 Dumbarton Street
McLean, Virginia

Dear Mrs. Agnew:

Pursuant to your telephone conversation, I have personally inspected the CIA sanitary sewage system and storm sewer systems at the Headquarters compound and am pleased to advise that neither system is contributing pollutants to the Potomac River.

As you correctly noted, the Agency's sanitary sewage flows to a sewage station controlled by Fairfax County. This pumping station pumps sewage into a force main leading across the river to the Blue Plains treatment center. An independent contractor survey completed in 1972 verified that this station is working at less than 50 percent capacity and contains a number of safeguards and alarm systems to prevent overflow. Subsequent to your telephone call and my visit to the station, CIA engineers and a Fairfax County maintenance officer also visited the station and verified that all systems are in working order and that no apparent overflow has occurred. The design of this station is such that any of three pumps are capable of removing accumulated sewage. Alarms are activated at the Fairfax County maintenance station when the capacity of any of the three pumps is exceeded. Should, for any reason, all three pumps fail simultaneously (which has never happened), no overflow provisions are made or are possible until the sewage completely fills the station and manholes backup the sewage line until a head of some 14 feet is reached. This is a vast amount of sewage, and the possibility of this occurrence before corrective action could be taken is considered virtually zero.

You are correct in noting what appeared to be an overflow manhole located downhill and to the east of the pumping station. This manhole was inspected both by myself and the Fairfax County maintenance officer. It contains ground water to within approximately 3 feet of the surface and is in fact a well constructed simultaneously with the station to provide a washdown capability if ever required. A sample of the water was taken by the Fairfax County maintenance officer and observed to be fresh and non-polluted. It is certainly conceivable that in times of high ground water

Mrs. Malcolm J. Agnew

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levels coinciding with heavy rains, this well might overflow as a small surface spring was noted in the area. Such overflow would, of course, not contribute any pollutants to the small stream running in the area.

I also inspected the three storm sewer outlets from the CIA property and verified that all effluent is clear and not polluted. At one point in time, CIA permitted some washdown water from a [REDACTED] disposal system to escape into this storm sewer system. This situation has been corrected, and all effluent from that waste disposal system redirected for treatment. An additional source of flow to the storm sewer system originated in our powerhouse from the boiler blowdown. This boiler blowdown effluent significantly raised the temperature of the storm sewer effluent and is considered to be the probable cause of any "organic hot spot" reading obtained from the Earth Resources and Technology Satellite (ERTS). This source of effluent has also been redirected, and storm sewer effluent temperatures should now be normal.

STATINTL

Your concern in Governmental control of pollution sources is appreciated and shared by the CIA. The Agency has undertaken many actions in recent years to minimize or eliminate possibilities of pollution to the environment. To the best of our knowledge and ability, Agency standards meet or exceed criteria established by Federal, state, and local governments.

It is hoped that the above information answers your questions regarding the Agency's sewage systems; however, if I can be of further assistance or you wish to inspect our sewage lift station to verify its capability, please contact me on 351-3017.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

STATINTL

Chief

Real Estate and Construction Division, OL

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STATINTL OL/RECD [REDACTED] ktt/3017
(5 August 1973)

3 AUG 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Sewage Pollution Complaint

STATINTL

1. Messrs. [REDACTED] of HEB met with Fairfax County maintenance personnel at the Headquarters sewage lift station on 31 July 1973 concerning an unidentified manhole located in the station area. The county maintenance supervisor identified the manhole, located directly southwest of the lift station building, as a dry well fed by an underground spring which had been used to supply water for miscellaneous maintenance needs.

2. This well has not been used by the county for 7 or 8 years and water samples taken indicated the water to be fresh.

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[REDACTED]
Project Officer

Headquarters Engineering Branch, RECD/OL

STATINTL

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